

Dear FCC:

I do not support the implementation of the "Broadcast Flag" proposal and related regulations that are attached to it. If the commentaries and analysis on this subject are correct, the related regulations would completely "handcuff" technology development INSIDE the USA, placing our much prized independence and freedoms at the mercy of those OUTSIDE our country.

Some commentaries and analysis of the proposed regulations indicate that "general purpose" computers as currently manufactured would become outlawed. That thought is very disstressing to me since I have made a life and a career out of designing and implementing networks to connect such devices together. I have performed work for clients such as Sacramento County in California, County of Los Angeles, City of Los Angeles, Lockheed Martin Tactical Aircraft Systems, The Associates (now part of Citigroup), Texas Instruments, MCI, SBC, GTE, Verizon, and even agencies of the US Federal Government. All of these entities would be directly and irreparably harmed by the bad regulations being incorporated into the entire "Broadcast Flag" proposal.

Think about these thoughts: How would you like it if anything you did on your computer in your home, your car, or your office could be "controlled" or even "blocked" by a third party that could prevent you from doing as you pleased with that technology? Do you really want to live in a world where computing devices that have generated such wealth and progress for our country could be used against you in ways that you cannot control? What ever happened to the notions of "Fair Use", "Freedom of Choice", and most of all, "Privacy"?

Passing the set of bad regulations that make up the "Broadcast Flag" proposal would be like jumping off a very tall cliff. Once you jump, there is no turning back; the impending impact could really do some harm; and, if we survive the fall, we will ever be the same again.

Thank you.

Jeff Rickman